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THE GARDEN CALENDAR.

A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, horticulturist, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through WRC and 37 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, September 2, 1930.

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Hello Friends:- According to our current weather reports, fair to good rains have fallen in many sections of the drought area. In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 5, verse 45, it says, "He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Evidently, some of us who live in the vicinity of Washington, D. C., don't belong to either the just or the unjust, for we have had only local showers and our lawns and gardens are still parched and brown. It is true that He has made His sun to rise upon us, but nobody has been able to explain why we do not get the rain.

Recently, I attended the annual convention of the National Vegetable Growers Association at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I've attended these conventions for many years, and one of the features of these annual meetings is a visit to the local markets. This marketing trip is usually conducted during the early morning while the local gardeners are displaying their products for sale. At Milwaukee, the farmers' market occupies about 3 city blocks. From what I saw in Milwaukee, there isn't much chance of the folks who live in that city going hungry any time soon. There must have been 150 or more trucks on the market on the morning of my visit, and the display of fruits and vegetables was simply wonderful, and the products were so clean and attractive that they appealed to the customers. The point that I wish to bring out, however, is that the City of Milwaukee and its local vegetable growers' organization are cooperating, and the gardeners find a good market right at home, while the people of Milwaukee have excellent fresh fruits and vegetables brought direct to them from nearby farms.

Fruit and vegetable production in this country has been developed along specialized lines, and in favorable locations, to such an extent that we now have fresh fruits and vegetables on our markets every day in the year. When I was a boy, we had tomatoes on our tables during the summer months, but now we can have tomatoes every day in the year if we care for them. I believe, however, that every city owes something to its local producers, especially in providing a suitable marketing place where the local growers can sell their produce direct to the stores, or to the homemakers who care to visit the market and make their purchases direct. There is no dodging the issue of quality or price when the producer and the customer come face to face and make their own bargain.

During the Vegetable Growers convention, we took a trip to the cabbage and onion growing sections around Racine, Wisconsin, and inspected the work being done by the University of Wisconsin in the production of disease resistant strains of cabbage. Some of the land in the cabbage growing sections has become so infested with the disease known as "Cabbage yellows," that it

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is no longer possible to grow a profitable crop of ordinary cabbage upon it. The College workers selected certain of the heavily infested fields and planted them to cabbage of the usual variety that the growers had been using, then selected the heads which did not show any effects of the disease. Seed was grown from these resistant heads, and the seed planted on infested ground the following year to see if it really was resistant to the disease. It was found that for the most part it was resistant so further selections were made, and seed grown and put into the hands of commercial growers. This work started about 20 years ago, and as a result, most of the cabbage being planted in all of that territory is now of the resistant strains. The college workers are not stopping, however, but are going right on testing different varieties and developing resistant strains of all of the more important commercial sorts. When that crowd of vegetable growers was taken into the test fields and shown how 90 to 95 per cent of some strains of cabbage were dead or dying from the disease, while right alongside the resistant strains did not show any appreciable effect of the disease, it convinced them of the value of scientific work in the production of better strains and varieties of vegetables.

This work with cabbage is just one example of what is being undertaken by scientific workers of the Federal Department of Agriculture, and of the colleges, the object of which is the production of improved strains or kinds of fruits and vegetables, especially those that are resistant to disease.

I noted that the discussions presented in the meetings of the convention dealt mainly with results of experimental work carried on by the colleges--problems like the control of mildew on cucumbers grown in greenhouses; the effect of soil acidity on various crops; the fertilizer requirements of the different crops; the use of green manures for improving the soil in the absence of animal manures, and many other subjects of vital importance in their work.

These growers are right on their tiptoes to take advantage of the very latest information that the scientific workers of the colleges and the Department can give them. It takes time to solve many of these problems, but I dare say that most of you would be surprised if you knew how many problems are already under investigation, and some day before anybody realizes that anything is being done out will come the solution of the problem. The results of these investigations are reported in the bulletins of the United States Department of Agriculture, and of the State Colleges and Experiment Stations. Often, however, information can be given in advance of the publication of the bulletins, so if you have a real problem in your orchard or your truck garden, or any phase of agriculture for that matter, let us have it, and we will see what we can do for you.

That closes the Garden Calendar for today, and you will again hear from Mr. Salisbury.

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